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60130-1001;99MRA0206

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (CANCELLED)

C1  
2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The actuator assembly as recited in claim ~~16~~ wherein said actuator is operably connected to said energy storing member by at least a portion of the transmission path.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The actuator assembly as recited in claim ~~16~~ wherein said actuator assembly further comprises a retaining arrangement to releasably retain said actuator assembly in said rest condition.

4. (ORIGINAL) The actuator assembly as recited in claim 3 wherein said retaining arrangement is partially provided by friction associated with at least one of said actuator, said transmission path and said output member.

5. (ORIGINAL) The actuator assembly as recited in claim 3 wherein said retaining arrangement is provided by a detent arrangement.

6. (ORIGINAL) The actuator assembly as recited in claim 5 wherein said detent arrangement acts upon said output member.

7. (ORIGINAL) The actuator assembly as recited in claim 6 wherein said detent arrangement acts substantially perpendicularly to a direction of movement of said output member.

8. (WITHDRAWN) The actuator assembly as recited in claim 3 wherein said retaining arrangement is a clutch arrangement.

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9. (WITHDRAWN) The actuator assembly as recited in claim 8 wherein said clutch arrangement includes a pawl acting on said output member.

10. (WITHDRAWN) The actuator assembly as recited in claim 9 wherein said pawl is disengaged from said output member by a pawl disengagement ramp, said pawl disengagement ramp being a component of said transmission path.

C1  
cont  
11. (WITHDRAWN) The actuator assembly as recited in claim 10 wherein said component of said transmission path has a lost motion connection on said output member.

12. (WITHDRAWN) The actuator as recited in claim 8 wherein said transmission path includes a worm gear and a worm wheel.

13. (WITHDRAWN) The actuator arrangement as recited in claim 12 wherein said actuator is operably connected to said energy storage member by said worm gear and said worm wheel.

14. (WITHDRAWN) The actuator assembly as recited in claim 13 wherein said worm wheel includes a crank pin acting on said output member.

15. (CANCELLED)

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An actuator assembly comprising:  
an actuator drivingly connected by a transmission path to an output member, said actuator being operable to apply a force in a first direction to drive said output member in the first direction from a rest condition to an actuated condition, and also being operable to apply a force in a second direction to drive said output member in the second direction from said actuated condition to said rest condition; and  
an energy storing member, in which movement of said output member by said actuator in said first direction is assisted by said energy storing member and movement of

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said output member by said actuator in said second direction stores energy in said energy storing member. ~~The actuator assembly as recited in claim 1,~~  
\_\_\_\_\_ wherein said first and second directions of movement of said output member are rotational.

C/nd  
17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The actuator assembly as recited in claim 16 wherein said energy storage member acts on said output member.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The actuator assembly as recited in claim 16 wherein said energy storage member is a resilient member.

19. (ORIGINAL) The actuator assembly as recited in claim 18 wherein said resilient member is a spring.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The actuator assembly as recited in claim 16 wherein said actuator assembly further comprises a housing which at least partially contains said actuator, said transmission path and said output member.

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21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of operating an actuator assembly having an actuator, an output member, and an energy storing member, comprising:

driving the actuator to apply a force in a first direction to drive the output member in the a first rotational direction from a rest condition to an actuated condition;

applying a stored energy force from the energy storing member in the first direction to assist the actuator in driving the output member in the first rotational direction;

driving the actuator to apply a force in a second direction to drive the output member in the a second rotational direction from the actuated condition to the rest condition; and

storing energy in the energy storing member when the actuator applies the force in the second direction.